

## 2005 SMITH RIVER FLOATER LOG COMMENTS

The following comments were recorded by 2005 Smith River floaters on floater logs turned in to FWP at the conclusion of the float. The floater log comments are entered verbatim, providing important feedback from recreation users of the Smith River.

### **Question # 1: If you did not stay at a declared campsite at any time during your float trip, why not?**

- Moved on to make more miles
- Forgot which site was declared. Did not bring papers
- Another group took Upper Parker Flat even though they were assigned Parker #1. Suggest a sign at Upper Parker noting that #1,2, & 3 are just around the bend.
- Missed site
- Raft problems
- Got permission to change sites
- We had Parker #1 but could not find it on the map.
- Raid
- Because of weather emergency concerns w/hypothermia.
- Left because of rain.
- Someone else had it by mistake
- Some Jack Ass took our first site and another group did not know where they were supposed to stay the last night.
- One person was ill
- The weather was ungood (bad) and we had the opportunity to stay at Anderson Ranch.
- It's snowing. We be going- skipped Merganser
- Given Gulch was confusing. We pulled up late, no occupants so we took it.
- Had Rattlesnake Campsite reserved, but poor weather conditions/river conditions encouraged us to go all the way from Middle Table Rock to Eden Bridge.
- We floated out the last day instead of camping at Black Butte.
- Indecent weather, moved down river for early take out.
- Occupied by someone else.
- Stayed @ a friends cabin
- We left Rattlesnake Bend at 8:20pm with two destroyed tents & five soaked sleeping bags after a wind & hail storm.
- Reservations @ Heaven on Earth
- Came all the way out on the third day.
- Someone over shot their site so we swapped.
- We forgot how to read, and when we remembered, the camp was upstream.
- Water too high at take out.
- River ran fast
- The last site we were assigned Ridge Top was flooded and difficult to get into.
- Perpetual rain
- Another party was @ ours (Upper Parker Flat) so we took theirs (Parker Flat # 1)
- Did not stay @ Upper Rattlesnake. Headed for dry land after Parker campsite.
- Rain and cold weather kept us at Rock Creek-one person was sick keeping us at Rock Creek a 3<sup>rd</sup> night- 4<sup>th</sup> site was under water.
- No camp on last assigned night due to weather (assigned Rattlesnake)
- Two Creek night 2; late start, wind, darkness so we pulled over
- Fishing was to good

- Stopped in for cold beer and hot shower @ Heaven on Earth Ranch great place. Winter weather conditions on river.
- Snow & cold and better cover in trees plus firewood in Trout Creek rather than Crowsfoot.
- We wanted to stop earlier and we knew the site was unoccupied.
- No one showed up at Cow Coulee (middle) by 8:00pm-we moved up because of better access to water.
- Came out one day early
- 4/15 capsized canoe a hole in stern had to pull in to fix, also river so low we are walking about 50% of the time.
- Delayed by fishing (great holes pockets) 1<sup>st</sup> day. This put us behind schedule by one day.
- No one else on the river. We just kept going.
- No one else present, unused. More sheltered campsite available.
- Water low and dropping-wanted to make distance.
- On the hike at Fraunhofer lost trail returning and came out Dog Creek. Short wife couldn't make all deep fording of Smith. I hiked back broke camp and floated down picked her up and camped at vacant Lower Parker. It was a long day. Sorry
- 5/29 Boat # 226 was also assigned to our campsite so luckily @ 8:00pm we were able to camp @ Lower Cow Coulee.
- Staigmiller was occupied, campers wanted 2 nights, and they had Lower Ridgetop so we traded. Not in our best interest- campers everywhere.
- There were others there

**Question # 6: Did you witness any fishing, trespassing or litter violations during your float trip? If so, what and where? Please note the boat tag number if possible.**

- No, met several nice groups along the way.
- Upper Coulee-trash paper plates, pancakes. Crows Foot-beer cans
- 4:45 pm Upper Scotty-fire still burning in fire ring-enough to restart for dinner.
- There was a beer can in latrine @ Cow Coulee and PVC pipe @ table Rock
- 2<sup>nd</sup> day after we left 1<sup>st</sup> campsite dogs running loose-campsite on left side of river.
- Minor-w picked up some left over trash from fire pits, mostly clean camps.
- Litter at Lower Rattlesnake. Dog dung in camp 2x. Charcoal on ground in camp-Upper Fraunhofer
- Sheep Wagon-dog food piles and steak bones.
- Cow pies in camp, dogs running loose. Baby Merganser walked into our camp-we couldn't find mother. Dogs may have flushed them. Chick died.
- Micro trash
- Occasional litter, but minimal. Campsites were clean. Nice solar latrine!
- Food left at Upper Black Butte.
- Some residual litter e passed camp (2)
- Very minimal litter
- Campsite @ Sheep Wagon had foil left in fire pit and charcoal around the fire pit.
- Found burned can and foil in fire pit at Upper Parker.
- Last camp was a little dirty-twist ties around
- Yes, Lower Ridgetop had lots of trash.
- Smoldering log outside of fire ring at Upper Trout Creek.7/1
- Night of 7/3, tents & fires outside of Lower Given Gulch campsite (a party of 20+) they were noisy, fire outside ring-way back in the trees.
- Someone dropped past in the water @ Tablerock.
- Yes, Lower Givens Gulch on evening of 7/3 unruly group of 20-30 left garbage of over camp.
- 7/3-midday-stopped at Lower Sunset and found a fire smoldering in the fire pit.

- Litter in fire ring @ Parker #3 and toilet lid left up.
- Just small litter found at campsites.
- Trash in fire pits at Table Rock and Paradise Bend.
- 2 beer cans @ Rock Creek, lots of small trash @ Syringa
- Canyon Depth-garbage in fire ring
- Glass in fire at Two Creeks
- Yes, at Two Creek campsite there was fresh dog feces and melted glass and aluminum in the fire ring. ½ Gal of it and butts, grill bent at upper Rattlesnake, hot fire ring.
- At Lower Sunset Cliff there were 12 aluminum cans that had been burned and left in fire pit. Picked up some garbage around camp.
- Scotty Allen camp had tin foil, little pieces of paper, bread tags, butts, not in fire container, Trout Creek camp couple burnt cans.
- Lower Sunset Cliff beer cans/foil in fire pit cig. Butts on ground.
- Crows Foot-poop of the human kind on the path to the latrine (with TP)
- Dirty diaper behind tree at Upper Trout Creek.
- (5/3 eve) had litter,(toilet paper all over near latrine) pull tabs, foil, cans, butts, sunflower seeds, twisties/micro trash 5/4 lower Ridge Top-micro trash
- 5/30 M.O. Rock Creek litter at camp, inc. Miller genuine draft can, lip balm, whistle, unburned plastic 5/32 Mid Cow Coulee litter at camp, inc coke can rope, sock, unburned plastic garbage, freshly cut Juniper branches, green shopped with axe.
- Trash in fire ring at Middle Table Rock and the fire was still burning unattended at 4:00pm
- Bad etiquette as usual.
- Yes, plastic container of “wet Ones” in the toilet at Lower Ridge Top
- Lower Sunset, can and dog poop. Givens Gulch fire still going.
- Parker Flats-too many cig. Butts trash in fire pit
- At Lower Ridge Top- Wet One container in latrine.
- Trash in latrine at Lower Ridge Top, wood also left here.
- Yes, some people were worm fishing. Not floaters though. One group of floaters camped next to us @ Rattlesnake even though the Upper and Lower were taken! This made it very crowded and had a different campsite registered. Float # 408 it was 2 yellow catamarans.
- Kitchen litter @ Crows Foot, wrappers twist ties, onion skins, burned papers out of the fire pit.
- Plastic bottles at Stagmueller (stopped there for lunch)
- Beer cans at Middle Table rock and cigarette Butts.
- Live tree had been cut down at Sunset Cliff for firewood.
- Saw someone keep a fish but I don’t know if it was a violation.
- Not much trash I picked out , yet I did carry more then my amount of ashes out
- Saw some campsite litter. No tag # available

**Question #7: Any other comments you have about your Smith River trip or about the river in general are more than welcome.**

- I think 6 dogs in one camp is to many- that many dogs should be at single camps if possible
- Middle Trout has three detriments to a wilderness experience-trucks (4) crossing river, road through campsite, gunshots in the night, flood lights to cliff
- Great trip
- We thoroughly enjoyed the river, campsites and toilet facilities!
- Latrine @ Middle Ridge needs more screening from Lower Ridge campsite, Trip was great!
- Importance of staying at designated camp needs to be stressed at put in we only stayed where we were supposed to 1 out of 3 nights because people were in our sites.

- Ranger Will is Lazy!!
- Very wet this time/take the good with the bad.
- Toilet seat at Syringa was broken.
- River is always great. 4 day of rain did not help the fishing or camping.
- Your Ranger encouraged me as an ex Ranger on the Gurnison Gorge not to pack out my ashes because they were spread for regeneration and this is not the thing to do, it was the only visual sore I had at campsites because it was not done respectfully, please sift these ashes and pick out, do not encourage others to do the. Thanks
- Did not like seeing Pvt cabin from camp at Sheep Wagon. Also Sheep Wagon has Hound's Tongue and Leafy Spurge infestations. Hound's Tongue at many sites, you probably knew that.
- Liked it better when not as many parties launching in a day.
- Loved it, can't wait to come back!!!
- I think the fact that we got any fish at all given the conditions is testament to the Smiths' quality as a fishery. Did not like the boat gate we saw-could damage fly rods. Also, landowner with houses or camps should be discouraged from maintaining lawns right up to the waters edge. Lawn run off/fertilizer damages stream quality-a buffer zone of natural vegetation should be maintained. Also noticed a number of areas where cows are encouraged to water/wallow in the stream. Isn't this illegal in Montana?
- Reservations for campsites ahead of time would be good. (@time of getting permit)
- Appreciate having host @ take out.
- Thanks Kirk
- A rope up the bank at Black Canyon would help when raining. Very slick trail.
- Can you please stop the rain next time
- Phenomenal beauty benevolently managed. Thank you very much!
- Great trip
- Other people seemed to know what they were doing! 1<sup>st</sup> 15 miles difficult rowing. Nice ranger at put-in nice host at take-out!
- Cows in Table Rock fencing (cow manure)
- Good trip
- Too much cow poop at the boat camps
- Well managed
- Pulled Hounds Tongue @ mouth of Rock Creek, big Cinnamon phase black bear at Crows Foot very nice camp, bear was not troublesome. Poison Ivy all around of Middle Ridgetop. Middle @ Lower Ridgetop are Too Close eliminate one of them!!!
- Sign loose @ Lower Scotty Allen
- We like it
- Beautiful river but bad weather. Campsites were beautiful and clean but better visual barriers at latrines with multiple sites would be better!
- Great trip!! Lose the golf course no more cabins
- Our Smith River outdoor experience was compromised at Trout Creek camp by noisy generators, bright lights, and 3 heavy duty vehicles (1 w/trailer), which forded the river and drove along the road in front of the boat camp the following morning. We would suggest trying to allow 5 days on the river.
- Great fun family trip!
- Two creek not a good site, no trees and real hot.
- Great float
- Lower Fraunhofer needs some screening at the latrine
- Merganser is becoming overgrown. It will soon cease to exist!
- Bathrooms too close together at Rattlesnake. Our neighbors at Rattlesnake had loud, blasting music-this pristine wilderness is no place for a boom box!!!!
- Get the weeds under control

- Fast
- All the folks on the river seem so nice Ranger Kirk is Awesome, so very helpful. I can't say enough about great he is!! Thanks Kirk
- River Ranger (Kirk) gave a very informative talk at the launch. Also friendly and helpful. Go to catch and release to help recover the fish population.
- Nice trip
- Bad weeds (leafy spurge) throughout worse further down
- Tree across latrine trail @ Syringa Upper
- As a whole I think the system works well. The put in and take out are understandably more congested. Nice
- Note: the poor fishing was our own fault!
- All campsites nice and clean. Weird bugs hatching at Upper Ridge Top. Great time! Yea Montana
- We had no dogs, but we feel there is no problems with dogs.
- Great weather, great trip, high water 1000 ft poor fishing
- Black bear at Crowsfoot camp. No problems during the late afternoon, Last sight had less than nice latrine. Way too close to other campers at Middle Indian Springs. Lower Ridge Top latrine littered w. wipe it cans
- Hot man! (outfitter) Please get rid of rain! Leave toilet lids open to increase decomposition.
- Great trip. Night of 6/16, huge rain, hail & wind storm, two trees blew down across the trail to the latrine, at Syringa campground.
- Great
- Everything was wonderful! Keep up the great work! Thank you for the memorable experience!
- Amy's Think Wild Shuttle Service damaged my truck. They didn't even know to put manual hubs in for 4 wd. The experience was wonderful and we were happy we to float the Smith.
- Thanks to volunteer Rangers.
- Ranger Will was professional & helpful. We are appreciative of the Eden Bridge volunteers.
- It was a wonderful trip, campsites were well maintained, staff were helpful.
- Great trip
- We enjoyed our visit from the ranger. It was a positive, informative experience, especially for the kids.
- Lots of weeds @ campsites.
- This was our 8<sup>th</sup> trip on the Smith and we've never before seen the lack of etiquette from the guides in general and specifically the groups that stayed at Middle Trout Creek and Table Rock on 6/14. A client from Middle Trout Creek even took a crap in our campsite!! Disgusting!!
- Great river trip. I hope the state/federal government will try to buy any river corridor land that becomes available.
- Gorgeous as usual, but boy has it changed since I was last on it 25 years ago.
- Very enjoyable!!
- Cool place
- Thanks
- Had an excellent experience! Rangers @ both ends were very friendly and helpful.
- As always it is a beautiful trip, Lovely country and changing river.
- Great trip! Less rain would be nice.
- Great trip!
- Thanks FWP-well managed river
- Still a great float. Campfire rings and toilets a big plus. A little frustrated that all fire wood at put-in had been sold.
- We saw a brown bear at Sunset Cliff on the other side of river.
- Parker Flat #1 take out difficult. Overall camp host @ Camp Baker very professional, very nice and very informative. Lower Givens campsite sign is broke.

- Thank you for a fine trip.
- Had a great time. Very! Light rain did not damper our trip at all.
- Thanks
- Camp host at Eden Bridge was concerned for our safety. He was great!
- Great trip
- Everything the said it was.
- Rangers at Camp Baker need to inquire about floating experience, equipment, and floater confidence in water flow conditions from the group member actually maneuvering boats down the river before advising other group members whether to continue down the river.
- We had a great time camp spots very clean. Thanks again
- Poison Ivy galore at Upper Givens. Great latrine @ Crows Foot! Can you install more?
- Great trip despite rain and high water.
- High water, lousy fishing great boating.
- Fire pits need some reconsideration as to location. On treed sights, put pits in a position to be near or under tarp. When weather is good it doesn't matter where it is.
- Paul Roose out fit was the nicest river companion ever.
- More sun!
- It was great- a little sunshine would have been greater.
- Total awesome experience Camp host excellent FWP employees excellent.
- Water was very high-one group couldn't get out too much H2O for their canoe- second group did fine.
- Great river wardens, Kirk & Will are top notch.
- Fantastic, Will was very nice and informative. Thanks
- On 5/3 up river from the Golf course, there was a GMS puck up on one of the ranches with two guys that cam running up to the shore of the river, we were floating not wading), with an assault rifle & dog. They were string, not saying a word, but trying to be intimidating. The party behind us had the same thing happen, along with guys firing shots over them, we were able to see it all take place.
- We know it was early season and not quite fully busy, but we were impressed with organization and management of so many groups. Scenery is beautiful, camps well laid out, well marked, ranger @ Camp Baker was great. We were witnesses to the 2 characters assaulting Jason, his wife & dog on 5/3. I will do a complete write up when I return. 208-818-2017 Jim Siebe.
- Great trip
- Great trip
- Great Time
- Camp Baker ranger was very nice and helpful.
- Great trip, no problems!
- Awesome! Loved awakening to geese, rock cliffs, Indian art, and views. Cold! Snowy and good days and nights.
- Givens (Lower) campsite sign is only up with a pile of rocks needs fixed. Thanks
- Suggest take lids off toilets rain will help flush. Tree below Lower Scotty Allen should be cut back or marked.
- Thank you
- River trip very nice, had some people their first time down said it was beautiful trip would like to go again. We had some very good fisherman with us but the fishing was very poor. Notice one drift boat with young boy in it that was not wearing life jacket. Some on our party said we would volunteer to go down river help clean campsites or whatever needed to be done. Thanks
- At first bend below Scotty Allen there's some large rock downfall & boulders in river. This bend is made much more dangerous by sawed log that extends into current. Very treacherous. Good to warn floaters about this hazard.
- At our last campsite there was a tree cut in half and leaning where we got there so we cut it the rest of the way and burned it.

- No more dogs!!!
- I really enjoyed the Table Rock campsite. Some of the latrines needed to be more concealed, namely Cow Coulee(Lower) and Upper Table Rock Felt no privacy At Middle Rattlesnake latrine, to close to Lower rattlesnake.
- More private sites!
- We will be back, God willing!
- Limit group size to 10, while Smith River operation was great! Catch and release only!
- Good friends, good weather, good food and good times. This is our third year and favorite trip for us especially the kids. We had a 12,9 and two 6 year olds.
- Water was a little high for good fishing, It was a great trip. Appreciate the permit system. Noticed population of toadflax on river about mile 47.
- Outstanding scenery our group was of the opinion that floater be required to pack human waste out.
- Thanks for the fun
- Good float
- Ban the dogs!
- We had a great float! We saw very few people and were generally very pleased with the condition of the boat camps (with the exception). However, it is apparent that weed gathering for campfires is taking its toll on the areas surrounding the boat camps. Bert and I have been floating the Smith River for over 20 years. We generally don't build campfires unless we really need them. I don't like the large fire grates that were installed. I think they help encourage the building of camp "furniture" from logs, and the use of large campfires when not needed. I would love to see a rule requiring people to pack in their own firewood on the Smith (except for emergencies, when we is needed to warm someone up after an unexpected swim). I would love to see FWP start an educational campaign to encourage people to minimize their use of campfires, and to build smaller fires instead of large ones, whether on the Smith or elsewhere.
- I like the current porta-pot system, but can understand the possible need to go to a pack-it-out system for human waste. It will be more difficult to float the 'Smith in canoes or small kayaks, if packing out human waste is required. Although we prefer to use a raft on the Smith, we really enjoy the opportunity to use our canoe to float late in the season when water levels are low. Perhaps another alternative would be to lower the current group size from 15 to 12 (or even lower). This might reduce the need for a "pack it out" system, and also help reduce the damage from large "party" groups.
- We enjoy taking our dogs with us, and hope that dogs will continue to be allowed on the Smith. Hopefully the crackdown on uncontrolled dogs will help alleviate future problems. I'm usually much more offended by the human behavior/trash I see on the Smith, rather than the dog behavior/poop. I like having dogs along, to alert us if bears approach the camp at night.
- It seems like a lot of problems on the Smith are caused by large "party" groups that drink too much while on the river. A smaller group size limit might help. Perhaps a limit on how much alcohol is allowed per person per night would help alleviate many of the problems with litter, glass, and vandalism in the campsites. A ban on glass containers, similar to the one on the Blackfoot, might help too.
- Log jam below Lower Scotty Allen almost ate some kids from Helena.
- Weather cold and snow one day very dirty water one day, all affected fishing.
- Great
- looks like a bear got into the latrine at Syringa, we cleaned up. Latrine sign down at Syringa, unable to fix.
- We were told by the man who checked us in at Camp Baker that we could fish the feeder creeks. He also said the it was ok to shoot turkeys on this float because they were escaped domestic birds. All turkeys we saw were Meriam. I was under the impression that all of these were illegal and he was telling people it would be ok to shoot them.
- For the first time ever we were unable to bring our 2 dogs. We dislike the regulation that pets must be kept on leash and are frustrated that dogs were off leash at put in and in front of rangers who were

present. The dogs were well behaved and saw not problem with their presence. We would not like to see responsible dog owners punished. Please allow off leash dogs on river.

- Latrine privacy fences were nice. Overall information (web site and Camp Baker officer) were good. Overall river management "A+". Thanks
- Thank You
- I think the fish restrictions enhance the population of trout very healthy. Campsites are great. Get rid of pit toilets.
- Cow Coulee needs a toilet lid.
- Thanks
- Beautiful! Best water yet. Question: What would one do in an emergency? Do you rent satellite phones?
- Thanks for fighting the weeds!
- Glad to know there is on going concern for weeds, the river is beautiful and we hope to support that.
- I would like to see 4-5 launches a day. Everything was great, but we saw too many other people.
- \*Kudos to Carla! Keep up the good work! Thanks for the call in assistance for cancellations!
- Kirk did good, 2 out 3 camps he put us in were lovely. ( skip county line in the future unless nothing available).
- Good job of regulating! Keep it up!
- Group camped at Lower Givens on 7/3 had group of 25 too many people on river.
- There was barbed wire at Middle Fraunhofer, we marked with orange plastic tape.
- Mark trail to pictographs better, safety hazard if you miss trail!
- Nice thanks
- Most beautiful place in the world.
- A great time thanks!
- Go to catch and release only. Mandate barbless hooks on flies and lures. Ban treble hooks on lures. Make it fly fishing only. Lower group size to 10 maximum.
- Some of the camps and latrines are over run with brush, goose droppings. The Smith river is a MT treasure and very well managed by MT Dept of FWP! Thanks
- Should all be catch and release. Barbless hook (single). Flies only.
- Great River, keep it up thanks.
- At Scotty Allen a wounded bear tried to raid camp and was reluctantly chased away.
- Merganser Bend was one of the poorest sites we've stayed at in 5 years of floating. Barely could fit tent in a spot. Had to back out an area.
- Wonderful!!
- Saw numerous dead fish in the river. Sites were all clean and well kept. Please release more wildlife in the future.
- Scenery amazing, Thanks
- Saw pelicans (4) river mile 3. Saw between 80-120 pelicans at river mile 34.5 The sandbar smelled strongly of dead fish. Middle Fraunhofer is a nice campground but has no beach or suitable place to land boats.
- The new dog regulations seem a bit strict. Perhaps some general rules besides a strict leash rule would be more of an compromise.
- Great trip, Am c9ncerned for fishing. Although I did not fish real seriously, still it seemed off for conditions. Pelicans!
- Very nice float, enjoyed it very much.
- Circada hatch was everywhere, and fish seen dead drifting in water column and washed into brush at stream side. Notices in camps about spray for weeds?
- The paths to a couple of latrines were quite thick with vegetation. Thanks for the work you do.
- Top notch, great float.



- Big “camps” are too big. Too many tents cause too much pressure. Should limit float groups to 6 people instead of expeditions, Lewis & Clark already did the expedition. The truck at Middle Trout Creek sullied the pristine roadless environs. Float was quiet. Saw lots of birds and spectacular butterflies. Ranger Kirk was conscientious and helpful. Thanks
- Thank you Kirk was outstanding, helped us big time with campsite selections. Gave us the pointer to hike the Indian Caves, WOW!! Perhaps clearing the paths to latrines in some cases. Women in or group were afraid.
- Old barb wire hazard at Lower Givens Gulch sign. Warn floaters that climb to Indian Cave (w/markings) is an extreme climb.
- I would have you do one fewer trips/day
- Double booked at 2<sup>nd</sup> campsite.
- Ban alcohol.
- Great river
- We had some people at our site one night. They easily could have made it to their site. It was disturbing.
- Wood at the campsites would be a great bonus. There is a lot of info. About keeping the Smith river pristine (pack in/out,etc.) which is great yet these rules/guides don’t seem to apply to the private land owners. They too should do there part to keep the Smith river pristine.
- Consider more restrictive fishing regs. Replace latrines with pack out portable toilets ASAP. Thanks
- Beautiful! Loved your work on the campsites. No other boaters. Lovely
- Awesome trip, very well managed river. Thanks
- We felt lucky to get on the river this late. Hit many rocks, but no big problem. Big rattlesnake on trail to Lower Givens Gulch latrine forced us to abandon use of it. Great trip!
- Very good trip, few people. The group of 3 with 2 canoes were very kind people. Enjoyed it very much!
- The camps were very clean. We had a great day, water was clear and deep enough for our rafts in most places.
- Fishing was poor at the end of trip due to run-off.
- Excellent! It would be helpful to encourage floaters to pick hound tongue to dispose of in fire pits.
- The fields of horsemint are beautiful. Rough fescue and blue bush white grass great. It’s a shame so much leafy spurge. Excellent riparian conditions.
- Great trip! Cicada hatch was on, brown trout were eating Cicadas.
- Very good river management plan put in use. Great campsites and latrines. Have been floating the Smith since the 70’s and it now shows good management. Great river ranger.
- The whole river should be catch & release!!
- Fantastic!
- Leafy Spurge is a problem.
- Good trip. Leafy Spurge in lower areas.
- Toilet full at Upper Ridge Top. 2 dead falls in channel near take out.
- Mile up from takeout snag in the river, I thought about going left, very dangerous, someone will get killed.
- 3 out of our 4 nights were doubled booked at the campsites. The last night we left a day earlier to avoid camping w/15 other people group #226. On 5/30 we were double booked w/group # 239.
- River was muddy, fly fishing no good, 95% caught on lures.
- Too many sites around Rattlesnake and Ridgetop. Excellent trip. Special thanks to Ranger Will!
- Awesome, Will, Carla & Bob were great!
- Dangerous fence caught on cliff face, left side appr. ½ mile past cluster of chains on private side. Large tree in river above Sunset. Need warning about 2 trees near (1-2miles) from take out.
- Rattlesnake on latrine tail at Paradise Bend.
- Great trip. Nice job FWP
- Great river, Kudos to FWP

- Latrine at Upper Ridge Top was full.
- Lid of toilet at Sunset. Great management. Assign campsite choice preference during lottery. Must be at Camp Baker by 8am or lose place.
- Great trip
- Great fun! Very clean.
- The Smith River canyon is definitely a national treasure. I hope that it will be designated a "Wild and Scenic River" someday. We saw two black bears near Stagmiller.
- People at take out could help others a little more.
- Upper Scotty Allen toilet much to steep a hill. Upper Parker latrine should face the river so you can see who's watching same for Ridge Top.
- Obnoxious landowner in truck at trout creek at 10:30pm! Spot lights on hill (they were friendly people however). Als9o tree in water near take out poorly described.
- Enjoyed the trip very much, but would be willing to have fewer chances to float if it meant fewer permits and less impact on the river.
- Some camps crowded but all in all awesome.
- Awesome!
- Great float
- Good job FWP!
- Fishing was poor due to high water, and other unknown factors. Trip was Spectacular. Appreciated the fire rigs and most importantly the latrines. We had a great time. No recommendations.
- River was well mark3ed and Ranger at put in gave valuable info regarding hazards. Great float!
- Fantastic river. Well managed and we thank you for working so hard to keep it that way.
- Beautiful and well managed.
- Don't allow dogs.
- It was wonderful! We'll do it again!
- Wonderful!
- Steel fir rings are dangerous as well as ugly. Should use good old fashioned rock fire rings.
- Great trip
- Saw Black bear at Trout Creek, but didn't bother us.
- Excellent trip
- Saw one bear at Scotty Allen. Saw a sow and two cubs at Pictograph landing (cinnamon)
- Thanks to the ranger for letting us camp off the river at lower 'givens, we won't do it again.
- May want to consider "hardening" some of the campsites to prevent further resource damage. Great experience!
- Great trip
- Another fine year, save for water clarity.
- Great float. Couple in canoe running rotweiler along bank.
- Landowners unfriendly
- Signs for camps excellent
- We appreciated the tree hazard information. In spite of heavy use, river canyon seemed in good shape. Thanks!
- There was almost no H2O in any latrine, maybe encourage people to dump kitchen grey water or coffee grounds in the latrine to help decompose waste! We enjoyed our trip very much. Thank you
- High water, great trip
- Military helicopter (3 passes) was disappointing and loud, unless it was necessary for rescue. Awesome trip. Campsites were really nice.
- Campsites very clean and well managed. Good compliance w/rules. High water great for floating, reduced fishing opportunity. Thanks for the good work you do at managing the public use of this unique resource in Montana.

- Uppermost tree (cut) hazard in river, cut stump off near trees branches sticking out of water. Causes accidents otherwise!! Lower most river Y having plugged right channel, deserves sign at point of island.
- Great time really appreciated help at put in and take out.
- Float was beautiful, I hop to do it again! Water was high and fast so fishing was poor.
- Nice campsites!
- Dog doo at L Scotty Allen at tent site, enforce no dogs. Great trip, cold snow.
- Please tell floaters in FAQS to leave their Rocket boxes at home since you provide latrines with each site. 15% discount at Super 3 in WSS with float permit Great float!